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For Immediate Release

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Annual Kids 1st Health Fair Changes Location

The 11th annual Kids 1st Health Fair, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lake County and the Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center, will be held at a new location this year. The new location is at East Middle School, 201 N. Butrick in Waukegan. For the first time, participants will be able to enjoy an air-conditioned building.

The fair will take place Wednesday, August 6, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. It is designed to provide assistance to limited income families residing in Lake County in meeting school health requirements for their children and to provide preventive health services. Low-income children entering preschool, kindergarten, fifth and ninth grades will receive their required physical and dental exams as well as needed blood work.

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“This fair is basically the one-stop shop for meeting a wide variety of kids’ health needs,” said Dale W. Galassie, the Health Department’s Executive Director. “It’s truly amazing to see what about 600 well-organized volunteers can do to help meet those needs in just one day.”

A family of four with a gross income limit of \$33,794 would qualify for the fair. Given the growing need for these types of free services, this year’s fair should at least equal, if not exceed, the 1,700 children who received services at last year’s event.

In addition to meeting State of Illinois preschool and school health requirements (including physical examinations and immunizations), children can receive a variety of other health screenings including dental, lead, and sickle cell anemia. Upon evidence of completion of all required health services, children receive a new backpack filled with age-appropriate school supplies. If further medical assistance is required, referrals are made and the Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center follows up on treatment.

At the fair, a variety of social service agencies are represented to provide families with information on such issues as child care, crisis intervention, education, health services, housing, employment, parenting, substance abuse, legal services, safety, family

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counseling and other community services. The fair sponsors hope that as families learn more about health systems available to them, they will become better health service users.

A few requirements must be met for families to participate in the Fair. They are as follows:

- ❖ All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- ❖ Two forms of identification are required, including one with an address.
- ❖ Each working adult must bring two paycheck stubs.
- ❖ A child's previous immunization record is needed for immunizations.

This year, fair organizers are looking for dentists to work the last shift of the fair from 3:45 to 8 p.m. Bilingual volunteers are also needed to help serve the Spanish speaking families who participate. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sharon Doney, a health educator at the Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center, at (847) 377-8103.

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